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Central Intelligence Agency

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* Subject to DOD concurrence

MEMORANDUM for the Secretary of the Navy.

Via: Chief of Naval Operations.

Subject: Post-War Naval Intelligence.

1. My tour of duty as the wartime Vice Chief of Naval Operations being completed, I am taking the liberty of submitting a few observations on Post-War Naval Intelligence, inasmuch as Naval Intelligence was one of the major functions under my office.

2. It gives me great pleasure to report that the Office of Naval Intelligence is taking full advantage of wartime experience to improve its organization and methods of operation in order to meet the heavy burdens which will rest on Naval Intelligence in the turbulent period ahead.

3. Admiral King, on 9 October 1945, approved a training program in intelligence for Regular Navy Officers at the Navy Academy, Post-Graduate School and War College levels. Included in the program is a Post-Graduate specialist course in all phases of Naval Intelligence. From this course a pool of Regular Navy Officers, trained in Naval Intelligence, will be created. Within the next ten years this pool will be large enough to provide for usual rotation between general line duties at sea and duty ashore in intelligence billets. This group also will form the cadre for mobilization of Naval Reserve Intelligence Officers in any future emergency or war. This program will insure continuity of administration of intelligence work.

4. One of the achievements of ONI during the war was participation in a wide and varied range of Joint Intelligence Activities with Army Intelligence Units, of which the AC-of-S, G-2, War Department, (MID), is but one. State Department, O.S.S., F.B.I., and other Federal Intelligence Agencies. Many of the activities were initiated by ONI. Through these joint activities substantial reduction in unnecessary duplication, and a more thorough coverage of the intelligence field were achieved. Steps have been taken to continue those Joint activities having application under peacetime.

5. During the war, a complete merger of ONI with MIS was considered, but impartial examination of the situation revealed such a merger was not desirable under conditions then prevailing. First, it was revealed that each service had such specialized needs in intelligence as to preclude a merger without serious loss to each. Second, it became apparent that the Army did not have a unified and coordinated intelligence service.

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6. Various proposals have been made for creation of a Central Intelligence Agency to give the United States the over-all intelligence coverage necessary in the post-war world. There can be no valid argument against the basic premise, for the need is urgent. However, most careful consideration must be given the details of establishing such an organization in order to insure control by the Army and Navy of the operational and combat intelligence at all times. This control is a necessity of the Armed Services are to fulfill their mission. Failure to maintain such control could easily be the difference between victory and defeat.

7. The recently approved plan of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for establishment of a Central Intelligence Agency, under control of a National Intelligence Authority, is in my opinion sound and should be supported aggressively. With the Secretaries of State, War and Navy, and a representative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff forming the National Intelligence Authority, the necessary control could be exercised. At the same time, such an agency could render essential and effective service in coordinating collection and synthesis of Strategic and Operational Intelligence, (of common interest), for its contributing and beneficiary members with economy.

8. Many of the functions pertaining to basic political and economic intelligence now performed by the Office of Naval Intelligence could be transferred to such an agency. In the meantime, ONI must continue to carry on and provide the necessary intelligence of all types required by the Navy.

9. I recommend every effort be made to urge and expedite establishment of such a Central Intelligence Agency as outlined and approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Establishment of such an agency would enable the Office of Naval Intelligence to more effectively serve the Navy by being able to concentrate all its effort in exploiting to the maximum all intelligence from the standpoint of Naval interest.

10. Along with a Central Intelligence Agency to serve all Federal Departments concerned with National Defense, every effort should be made to centralize Naval Intelligence activities so the Navy can provide appropriate Naval Authority with thoroughly integrated intelligence.

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THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

13 October 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

It occurs to me that these subjects which have common interest to both Departments might be the basis of a discussion between us some time in the near future: * * * * *

2. Joint Intelligence. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, as you know, made a recommendation to the President for a national intelligence organization, the general outline of which provides for intelligence supervision by the War, State and Navy Departments, with a director charged with the working responsibility functioning under these individuals as a group. I think this is a subject which should have our close attention. The Joint Chiefs of Staff paper seems to me soundly conceived and, if you agree, I think we should push it vigorously at the White House. * * * * *

s/ James Forrestal

James Forrestal